



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

North Cascades National Park
Lake Chelan National Recreation Area
Ross Lake National Recreation Area
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284-9394

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2

September 25, 2015

Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Upper Skagit Indian Tribe Goodell Creek Restoration Feasibility Analysis

Dear Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel,

I am writing to express strong support for the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe's (USIT) proposal to develop plans for restoring Goodell Creek and its associated alluvial floodplain. We have been working closely with USIT for over two years on this project and share their vision to see Goodell Creek returned to its prominence in supporting a robust salmon populations.

The proposed project area is located within Ross Lake National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) that is managed jointly with North Cascades National Park and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area as the North Cascades National Park Service Complex.

The Goodell Creek alluvial floodplain has been greatly impacted by historic hydro-modifications that have resulted in a number of adverse impacts to the watershed, including a loss of habitat for species of special status such as Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout as well as coastal cutthroat trout, coho salmon and chum salmon. As an agency dedicated to "maintain[ing], restor[ing], and protect[ing] the inherent integrity of natural resources, processes, systems, and values," the National Park Service supports the USIT proposal to develop a design and plan for restoring natural processes and important floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat to this area and is willing to dedicate funds in the form of in-kind staff support from our technical subject area experts until the project is completed. This contribution would total approximately \$95,000 and would include technical assistance to develop and review plans, conduct wildlife, vegetation, fish, water quality and archeological surveys and oversee National Environmental Policy Act compliance. Additionally, we will seek internal NPS funding to relocate recreational facilities within the project area, will work with our partners in the Puget Sound Federal Caucus secure additional matching funds when they become available, and will help to procure large woody debris generated from other NPS projects.

The North Cascades National Park Service Complex is committed to working with the USIT to carry the Goodell Creek alluvial fan restoration to completion. We see the proposed feasibility analysis as the next logical step in developing this project. Once completed, the feasibility analysis would allow the NPS to work both internally and among the project partners to further define the NPS roles and responsibilities within the partnership and to identify viable funding pathways to fulfill those responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich
Superintendent